



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Louisiana Pigtoe

Pleurobema riddellii

Rarity Rank: S1S2/G1G2

Identification:

- Inflated with a fairly round shape.
- Solid shell with a greenish-brown color on the outside.
- Bluish-white interior with an iridescent posterior.
- Length up to 2.6 inches.

Taxonomic comments: This species appears to be synonymous with *Quadrula (Fusconaia) friersoni*.



Photo by Steve Shively

Habitat: Streams and moderate size rivers on substrates of mud, sand, or gravel.

Food habits: Mussels are filter feeders that continuously pump water through their siphons. Their diet is composed of the plankton and detritus that they are able to extract during this process.

Reproduction: Most freshwater mussels have a parasitic stage in which the glochidia (larvae) attach to the gills or fins of certain types of fish. The host fish for this species is unknown.

Threats:

- Loss of habitat as a result of siltation, and impoundments.
- The addition of pollutants to streams and rivers may also contribute to the decline of this species.

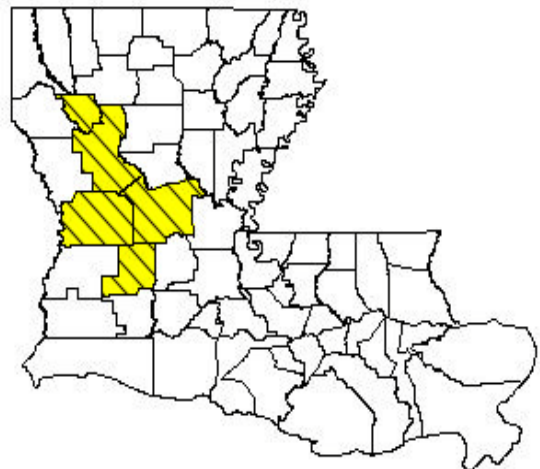
Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams

U. S. Range: LA, TX

References:

Howells, R.G., R.W. Neck, and H.D. Murray. 1996. Freshwater Mussels of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division, Austin, Texas.



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Vidrine, M.F. 1993. The historical distributions of freshwater mussels in Louisiana. Gail Q. Vidrine Collectables, Eunice, Louisiana.